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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/12/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MASS](#) [MOPS](#) [AJ](#)  
SUBJECT: AZERBAIJANI MINDEF REQUEST USG ASSISTANCE IN  
LOCATING DOWNED MIG-29

Classified By: AMBASSADOR DERSE FOR REASONS 1.4 (c, d).

11. (U) This is an action request. See paragraph 2.

12. (C) During a meeting between Minister of Defense Safar Abiyev and Ambassador Derse on February 12, Abiyev officially requested USG assistance to locate a downed MiG-29 fighter jet, which crashed into the Caspian Sea in late January. He added a request for all possible assistance, ranging from satellite support to assistance with sonar. Ambassador said that she would immediately query on the availability of which USG assets are available to assist. The Defense Attache's Office will meet with Azerbaijani Naval and Air Force commanders later on February 12 to get more information on the crash site and search parameters. Abiyev said that they were relatively certain where the crash site was located, but to date, their search has yielded no results. He pointed to the strong currents in the Caspian which may have caused the downed aircraft to shift position. Post queries addressees on the availability of assets to meet this assistance, on the availability of the side scan sonar team and, if available, when they could be on the ground in Baku.  
DERSE